REMARKS

I. Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 10-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Snell (US 6,249,705) in view of Bowman-Amuah (US 6,332,163). Claims 10-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ji et al. (US 5,623,600) in view of Snell (US 6,249,705).

Claim 10 has been amended to recite that the programming unit being coupled to the gateway server arrangement and comprising means for performing a self-discovery procedure to determine whether to initialize in a current mode or to reconfigure into a different mode that is based on software applications residing on the gateway server arrangement. Support is found in the specification at page 4, lines 21-25.

None of the referenced prior art documents, alone or in combination, teach or suggest a self-discovery procedure wherein the IMD programming unit determines whether to initialize in a current mode or to reconfigure into a different mode that is based on software applications residing on a gateway server arrangement. Therefore, independent claim 10 and claims 11-19 dependent thereon are patentably distinguishable from the prior art documents. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

The primary reference in the stated rejections is Snell. However, the server 102 in Snell operates with network programmers configured to perform only limited functions. The network server performs additional functions directed to analyzing information received from the network programmers and to transmitting the results of such analyses. Thus, network programmers necessarily operate in a single mode and do not include the ability to be reconfigured into a different mode based upon software applications residing on the network server.

The secondary references of Bowman-Amuah and Ji are relied upon merely as demonstrating servers with antivirus protection. Neither of them

provides any disclosure or suggestion of a programming unit comprising means for performing a self-discovery procedure to determine whether to initialize in a current mode or to reconfigure into a different mode that is based on software applications residing on a server coupled to the programming unit.

II. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that all presently pending claims in this application are in condition for allowance. Applicants further respectfully request that a notice of allowance be issued in due course.

Respectfully submitted,

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